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cont

33.
42. A computer implemented method as defined in Claim *41*, wherein the non-linear function is a hashing function.

34.
43. A cryptographic communications systems as defined in Claim *30*, wherein the non-linear function is a hashing function.--

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for the courtesies extended their counsel and the Applicant during a telephone interview conducted on January 11, 2001. During the telephone interview, the newly cited reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,069,954 to Moreau was discussed.

In the Office Action, Claims 34 and 37-40 were objected to due to several informalities. Applicant has amended Claims 34 and 37 to overcome these objections. Reconsideration of the objections to these claims is respectfully solicited.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has noted allowable subject matter in Claims 5-10, 12-16, 18, 21-24 and 36-40. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 5. Claim 30 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 10. By this Amendment, Applicant has also added new Claims 41-43 which includes the allowable subject matter of the combination of Claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 30 and the claims that depend therefrom as well as new Claim 41 should be in condition for allowance.

In view of the telephone interview and the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that each of Claims 1-24, 30-32, and 34-43 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone discussion would expedite allowance of this application, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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